



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|

10/800,167

03/12/2004

Douglas A. Cairns

4015-5161

9086

24112 7590 05/23/2008

COATS & BENNETT, PLLC
1400 Crescent Green, Suite 300
Cary, NC 27518

EXAMINER

FOTAKIS, ARISTOCRATIS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

05/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/800,167 | Applicant(s) CAIRNS ET AL. | |
| | Examiner ARISTOCRATIS FOTAKIS | Art Unit 2611 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03/27/2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 59 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 12, 14 - 15, 19 - 23, 25 - 51 and 55 - 57 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13, 16- 18, 24, 52 - 54, and 58 - 59 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 6, 9 - 11, 26, 30 - 31, 35 - 40, 42, 44 - 47, 51 and 56 - 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nielsen (US Pub 2002/0080863).

Re claims 1 and 35, Nielsen teaches of a method of determining received signal impairment correlations using a model comprising one or more model impairment terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP} , Paragraph 0034) scaled by corresponding model fitting parameters (r_0 , 1 – r_0), the method comprising: computing the one or more model impairment terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP} , Paragraph 0034); measuring received signal impairment correlations (R_u , Paragraph 0034); adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the measured received signal impairment correlations and the one or more model impairment terms using a fitting process (#46, *a process that is repeated for every new SNR in order to determine the optimum scaling factor r_0* (see Fig.5) see also Figs.4, 5 and 7,

Paragraphs 0038, 0041 and 0043); and calculating modeled impairment correlations based on the adapted model fitting parameters (using the equation of Paragraph 0035).

Re claims 2 and 44, Nielsen teaches of comprising a model that at least includes an interference impairment term scaled by a first fitting parameter (r_0) and a noise impairment term scaled by a second fitting parameter ($1 - r_0$) (equation in Paragraph 0035).

Re claim 3, Nielsen teaches of measuring received signal impairment correlations at each of one or more successive time instants (covariance matrices, Paragraph 0034) and wherein adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the received signal impairments comprises fitting the model to measured received signal impairment correlations by adapting values of the first and second fitting parameters (r_0 optimizer, Fig.4, Paragraphs 0030 - 0032). It should be noted that the covariances are computed based on instantaneous time samples.

Re claim 4, Nielsen teaches of adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the measured received signal impairment correlations comprises, for fitting the model (see claim 3), determining the model fitting parameters as instantaneous

fitting values (states, Fig.7, Paragraph 0040, Lines 8 - 16) obtained from successively determined instantaneous fitting values (#94, #96, Fig.7, Paragraph 0041).

Re claim 5, Nielsen teaches of the $r(t)$, Fig.2) received signal being processed comprises a Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) signal (Paragraph, Lines 9 - 15), and wherein the model fitting parameters are adapted at successive time instants corresponding to WCDMA signal timeslots (n, chip index, Paragraph 0018, Lines 1 - 3) (see claim 3).

Re claims 6 and 45 - 46, Nielsen teaches of initializing the model by setting the first fitting parameter to zero ($r_0 = 0$, Fig.7, Paragraph 0043, Lines 1 - 10) and setting the second fitting parameter to a positive value (when $r_0 = 0$ then second parameter $1 - r_0$ is a positive "1" which is an estimate of received noise power).

Re claim 9, Nielsen teaches of providing a model of received signal impairment correlations comprises providing an interference correlation matrix scaled by a first model fitting parameter and a noise correlation matrix scaled by a second model fitting parameter (see claim 1), and wherein elements of the interference correlation in the model (#42, Fig.4) are determined from channel estimates (from #32, Fig.2) corresponding to one or more received signals of interest (Paragraph 0025).

Re claim 10, Nielsen teaches of measuring the received signal impairment correlations from the channel estimates (covariance matrices, Paragraph 0035), and wherein adapting the model responsive to recurring measurements as discussed above by computing a plurality of channel estimates (vector h) over each one of repeating time slots (n , chip index, Paragraph 0018, Lines 1 - 3) and calculating updated model fitting parameters (Fig.7, Paragraph 0043) for each slot based on the measured impairment correlations.

Re claim 11, Nielsen teaches of varying a channel estimate (multipath environment) across each slot such that measurements of the impairment correlations taken across the slot reflect changing fading conditions as a result of the changing channel estimation (Fig.2).

Re claim 26, Nielsen teaches of using the modeled signal impairment correlations from the model to generate at least one of RAKE combining weights (Fig 1, #14, Fig.4, #50) for RAKE combining (#16, Fig.1) despread values (#18, Fig.1) of a received signal corresponding to the model.

Re claim 30, Nielsen teaches of adapting each of the model fitting parameters responsive to recurring measurements of the received signal impairment correlations

comprises updating the impairment terms of the model at successive time instants (see claim 2) based on current channel estimates (see claim 10) and path delays (multipath delays) for a received signal of interest, and calculating updated model fitting parameters to fit the updated impairment terms to currently measured received signal impairments (see claim 10).

Re claims 31 and 42, Nielsen teaches of the model including an interference impairment term comprising an interference covariance matrix that is updated at each time instant based on current channel estimates (see claim 10), current RAKE finger delay assignments (#12, Fig.1), and current received signal path delays (multipath delays).

Re claim 36, Nielsen teaches of a receiver circuit (Figs.1 and 6) to determine received signal impairment correlations for use in received signal processing (Figs.1 – 7), the circuit comprising: an impairment correlation estimator (#40, Fig.4) configured to measure received signal impairment correlations (#44, #42) for a received signal of interest ($r(t)$, Fig.1); and one or more impairment modeling circuits (#50, Fig.4) configured to compute one or more model impairments terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP} , Paragraph 0035), implement a model comprising one or more model impairment terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP} , Paragraph 0035) scaled by corresponding model fitting parameters (r_0 , $1 - r_0$), adapt each of the model fitting parameters based on the received signal impairment

correlations as provided by the impairment correlation estimator (#46, Fig.4, Paragraph 0038 and Fig.7) and the one or more model impairment terms using a fitting process (#46, *a process that is repeated for every new SNR in order to determine the optimum scaling factor r_0* (see Fig.5) see also Figs.4, 5 and 7, Paragraphs 0038, 0041 and 0043), and to calculate modeled impairment correlations based on the adapted model fitting parameters (using the equation of Paragraph 0035).

Re claim 37, Nielsen teaches of the receiver circuit further comprising a RAKE (Fig.1) combining (#16, Fig.1) weight generator (#50, Fig.4) configured to generate RAKE combining weights for RAKE combining despread samples (#20, Fig.1) of the received signal of interest ($r(t)$, Fig.1) based at least in part on the model of received signal impairment correlations (Paragraph 0043, Fig.7).

Re claims 38 and 51, Nielsen teaches of the receiver circuit further comprises a Signal-to-Interference Ratio (SIR) estimation circuit (#104, Fig.7) configured to estimate a SIR for the received signal of interest based at least in part on the model of received signal impairment correlations (Paragraphs 0045, 0046).

Re claim 39, Nielsen teaches of a wireless communication terminal for use in a wireless communication network (Fig.1) comprising: a radio front-end circuit (#24, Fig.1)

Art Unit: 2611

configured to provide one or more received signals of interest corresponding to one or more antenna-received signals (Paragraph 0017); and a receiver circuit (Fig.1) configured to generate one or more RAKE combined signals by RAKE processing the one or more received signals of interest (fingers 12, Fig.1, Paragraph 0018); said receiver circuit configured to calculate RAKE combining weights (#34, Fig.2) by: providing a model of received signal impairment for a received signal of interest comprising an interference impairment term scaled by a first fitting parameter and a noise impairment term scaled by a second fitting parameter (see claim 2); and measuring received signal impairment correlations at each of one or more successive time instants and, at each time instant, adapting values of the first and second fitting parameters to fit the model to measured received signal impairment correlations (see claim 3).

Re claim 40, Nielsen teaches of the receiver circuit configured to update the model at each time instant based on current channel estimates and path delays for a received signal of interest (see claim 10) such that instantaneous values of the first and second fitting parameters are calculated to fit current interference impairment and noise impairment terms to the measured received signal impairment correlations (see claim 4).

Re claim 47, Nielsen teaches of the receiver circuit configured to provide a model for each of one or more transmitted signals of interest (see claim 39).

Re claim 56, Nielsen teaches of a method of received signal processing (Fig.1 – 7) comprising: receiving one or more signals of interest ($r(t)$, Fig.1) during each of a succession of time slots (n , chip index, Paragraph 0018, Lines 1 - 3); generating channel estimates over each time slot (vector h); measuring impairment correlations for the one or more signals of interest (Paragraphs 0034 – 0035); computing one or more model impairment terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP} , Paragraph 0034); updating model fitting parameters by fitting the measured impairment correlations to an impairment correlation model using the one or more model impairment terms (#110, #108, Fig.7); and based on the updated model fitting parameters, generating in each time slot at least one of RAKE combining (#16, Fig.1) weights (#34, Fig.2) for combining despread values for the one or more signals of interest (#14, Fig.1), and signal quality measurements for the one or more signals of interest (#100, Fig.7) (Paragraphs 0043 - 0046).

Re claim 57, Nielsen teaches of updating each term of an impairment correlation model based on the measured impairment correlations comprises updating a modeled interference correlation matrix by updating a corresponding first scaling factor (r_0) and updating a modeled noise correlation matrix by updating a corresponding second scaling factor ($1 - r_0$)(Paragraph 0040, Fig.5 and #110, #108, Fig.7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 7, 25 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Heikkila (US 6,771,690).

Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of providing a combined model for each of two or more received signals of interest.

Heikkila teaches of a method to minimize the mean-square-error of an estimate of an unknown parameter, such as a data symbol transmitted through a channel, such as a WCDMA channel. The method includes steps of (a) replacing a required multiplication of an input signal vector by an inverse covariance matrix, which is one of a total signal covariance matrix or an interference-plus-noise covariance matrix, by linear filtering (#22, Fig.3), wherein directly computed or estimated filter elements of a row or a column of the inverse covariance matrix, corresponding to time instant i , are used as linear filter coefficients; (b) forming a vector $g(i)$ from the filter outputs, the vector $g(i)$ being estimated element by element using the linear filter; and (c) using the vector $g(i)$ in place of a vector that would have been obtained by directly multiplying the signal vector by the inverse covariance matrix. A summation junction (#26) is provided at the outputs of the pulse shape filters (#24) to provide a combined model of received signal impairment correlations for the two signals of interest (Fig.3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a multi antenna receiver for the benefit of increasing throughput, range and improved error rate performance.

Claims 8, 23, 32 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Bottomley et al. ("Generalized RAKE Receiver for Interference Suppression", IEEE, August 2000).

Re claims 8 and 23, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of providing a third fitting parameter included in the model of the received signal impairment correlation.

Bottomley teaches of a received signal ($r(t)$, Fig.2) being processed comprising a wireless communication network signal (WCDMA, Abstract), and wherein providing the model of received signal impairment correlations comprises providing a model that includes two or more of a same-cell interference impairment term (R_{MUI} , Fig.1 and equation 22) scaled by a first fitting parameter (E_I , Eq.22), a noise impairment term (R_n , Eq.22) scaled by a second fitting parameter (N_0), and an other-cell interference (R_{ISI} , Eq.22) impairment term scaled by a third fitting parameter (E_o) (Page 1539).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have considered a third impairment term of other-cell interference scaled by a third fitting parameter to provide a more accurate signal impairment correlation measurement.

Re claims 32 and 43, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claims 2, 10 and 31 and 40 except of the noise covariance matrix being based on an autocorrelation function of a received signal filter pulse.

Bottomley teaches of the autocorrelation function of the filtered noise (Eq.15 and Eq.27) of the noise covariance R_n .

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have computed the autocorrelation function of the noise for the benefit of developing autocorrelation-independent weights (Page 1540, Col 2, Lines 1 – 2)

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen and Bottomley as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Zhang (US 7,167,723).

Nielsen and Bottomley teach all the limitations above except of the use of cross antennas.

Zhang teaches of a dual channel redundant wireless network link formed by a Redundant Fixed Wireless Network Link device where two wireless networking radio channel are separated by cross polarization of antenna at same radio frequency (Fig.2), or different radio frequency characteristics.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used cross polarization antennas to minimize the cross interference between channels.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Engstrom et al.(US Pub 2001/0036812).

Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 11 except of the varying a channel estimate across each slot comprising interpolating channel measurements across the slot such that a channel estimate value is a function of relative positioning within the slot.

Engstrom teaches of bit error rate estimates are used for measuring link quality in a radio telecommunications system (Abstract, Lines 1 – 2). The channel estimates are interpolated according to the position of the symbols in the slot. (Eq 11, Paragraph 0055)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to interpolate channel measurements across the slot such that a channel estimate value is a function of relative positioning within the slot to derive a link quality measurement (Abstract).

Claims 14, 15, 19, 41 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Smee et al (US Pub 2003/0031234).

Re claims 14 and 15, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 10 except of estimating the noise power.

Smee teaches of a method and apparatus to compute the combiner coefficients for wireless communication systems for a space-time solution (Abstract, Lines 1 – 3). Smee teaches of summing selected diagonal elements of a measured impairment correlation matrix obtained by measuring the impairment correlations (Eq.19, Paragraph 0159, Lines 11 – 14) and subtracting components (Eq.20) from the summed diagonal elements to obtain an estimate of noise power comprises summing main diagonal elements corresponding to on-path RAKE fingers (Paragraph 0163) and subtracting a second value determined by summing main diagonal elements corresponding to off-path RAKE fingers (off-diagonal elements are zero, Paragraph 0175).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to estimate noise introduced to the transmitted signal by the channel (diagonal elements) to effectively decode the transmitted signal (Paragraph 0025).

Re claims 19 and 55, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 10 and 39 as well as modeled interference and noise correlation matrices substantially match the measured impairment correlations (#108, Fig.7). However, Nielsen does not teach of performing a least squares fit of the model fitting parameters.

Smee teaches of calculating updated model fitting parameters based on the measured impairment correlations (Paragraph 0052) by performing a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis (Paragraph 0048).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis.

Re claim 41, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 40 except of the use of LSE process.

Smee teaches of calculating updated model fitting parameters based on the measured impairment correlations (Paragraph 0052) by performing a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis (Paragraph 0048).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis.

Claims 20 – 22 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Love et al. (US Pub 2004/0253955).

Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of maintaining different state values for one or more of the model fitting parameters, so that scaling of the corresponding impairment terms is state dependent.

Love teaches of a wireless communications device (#100, Fig.1) including a primary radio frequency branch (#134) and a diversity branch (#136), which is enabled (*active state*) (HSDPA, Paragraph 0018) and disabled (*inactive*) to balance performance and *power* consumption. Diversity mode operation of the device is controlled, for example, based on one or more of an estimated channel quality indicator (channel estimation), data reception (WCDMA, Paragraph 0018), data rate, state or mode of the station, estimated signal to noise ratio of a pilot signal (*control information from the base station*), battery power level, distance from a serving cell, among other factors (Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a diversity branch with active and inactive states to reduce power consumption where changes in the channel estimation according to the pilot sent from the base station would result in different impairment terms.

Claims 28 – 29, 48 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nielsen in view of Taylor et al. (US 7,092,452).

Re claim 28, Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of a combining model corresponding to two or more transmit diversity signals received as signals of interest.

Taylor teaches of a digital receiver automatically detecting and non-coherently demodulating a multiplicity of interfering digitally modulated signals transmitted simultaneously at approximately the same carrier frequency. The receiver includes one or more antenna inputs (e.g., polarization and/or space diverse), a parameter estimator module, and a multiuser detector for estimating the data transmitted by each interfering signals and adapted to operate with at least one of a MUD algorithm with partially quantized prior information and a MUD algorithm based on prewhitened data (Abstract). The multiuser detector module is configured to operate with the low complexity linear MMSE algorithm and includes a combiner module coupled to the turbo MUD, and is adapted to combine recomputed bit estimates output by the turbo MUD with quantized bit values on a next iteration (Col 3, Lines 25 – 50).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have transmitted diversity signals to the receiver to provide a more accurate model and overcoming the effects of fading outages, and circuit failures.

Re claims 29, 48 and 50, Nielsen and Taylor teach all the limitations of claim 28 and 47. Nielsen does not teach of solving for model fitting parameters associated with each signal of interest corresponding to each transmit antenna.

As discussed above in claim 28, Taylor teaches of diversity (CDMA) and the combiner module in the multiuser detector module. The Parameter Estimator (#20, Fig.1) generates outputs that occur once per snapshot and contain parameter estimates for each frame of data in that snapshot. These parameter estimates include estimated signature waveforms (#30) for each diversity port (p), frame (m), and active user. The outputs also include an estimated noise power (#26), which is a scalar that represents the average power of the noise and a training sequence index (#28) which is a pointer to the location of the training sequence in each frame of the snapshot (#15).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have solved for model fitting parameters associated with each signal of interest for allowing multiple users to operate in the same communication channel that would accurately separate co-channel signals and reduce complex processing (Col 2, Lines 38 – 41).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 - 6, 8 – 11, 23, 26 - 27, 30 – 32, 35 – 40, 42 – 47, 51 and 56 – 57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurtz et al. (“Low Complexity Implementation of a Downlink CDMA Generalized RAKE Receiver”, Motorola Semiconductor Israel Ltd, 2002 IEEE).

Re claims 1 and 35 - 36, Kutz teaches of a method of determining received signal impairment correlations using a model comprising one or more model impairment terms (R_{ISI} , R_{OW} , R_{OT} , R_n , equation 10, Page 2) scaled by corresponding model fitting parameters (as shown in equation 10), the method comprising: computing the one or more model impairment terms (equations 11 - 14, Page 2); measuring received signal impairment correlations (equation 10); adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the measured received signal impairment correlations and the one or more model impairment terms using a fitting process (Page 3, Col 2 to Page 4, Col 1); and calculating modeled impairment correlations based on the adapted model fitting parameters (equation 19).

Re claims 2, 44 and 57, Kutz teaches of comprising a model that at least includes an interference impairment term (R_{ow} , equation 10) scaled by a first fitting parameter ($E_{TOT}^i - E_0^i$) and a noise impairment term (R_n , equation 10) scaled by a second fitting parameter (N_o).

Re claim 3, Kutz teaches of measuring received signal impairment correlations at each of one or more successive time instants (time slots, Page 4, Col 1) and wherein adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the received signal impairments comprises fitting the model to measured received signal impairment correlations by adapting values of the first and second fitting parameters (Page 4, Col 1, Last paragraph, equation 19).

Re claim 4, Kutz teaches of adapting each of the model fitting parameters based on the measured received signal impairment correlations comprises, for fitting the model (see claim 3), determining the model fitting parameters as instantaneous fitting values (for each time slot) obtained from successively determined instantaneous fitting values (equation 19).

Re claim 5, Kutz teaches of the received signal being processed comprises a Wideband Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) signal (Abstract), and wherein the

model fitting parameters are adapted at successive time instants corresponding to WCDMA signal timeslots (see claim 3).

Re claims 6 and 45 - 46, Kutz teaches of initializing the model by setting the first fitting parameter to zero ($E_{TOT} = E_o$, equation 19) and setting the second fitting parameter to a positive value (N_o/E_{TOT}).

Re claims 8 and 23, Kutz teaches of the received signal impairment correlations comprises a model that includes two or more of a same-cell interference impairment term scaled by a first fitting parameter (the correlation of R_{ow} , equation 10), a noise impairment term scaled by a second fitting parameter (the correlation of R_n , equation 10), and an other-cell interference impairment term scaled by a third fitting parameter (the correlation of R_{ot} , equation 10).

Re claim 9, Nielsen teaches of providing a model of received signal impairment correlations comprises providing an interference correlation matrix scaled by a first model fitting parameter and a noise correlation matrix scaled by a second model fitting parameter (see claim 1), and wherein elements of the interference correlation in the model (#42, Fig.4) are determined from channel estimates (from #32, Fig.2) corresponding to one or more received signals of interest (Paragraph 0025).

Re claim 10, Kutz teaches of measuring the received signal impairment correlations from the channel estimates (calculation of vector h , Page 3), and wherein adapting the model responsive to recurring measurements as discussed above by computing a plurality of channel estimates (vector h) over each one of repeating time slots (Col 1, Page 4) and calculating updated model fitting parameters for each slot based on the measured impairment correlations (equation 19).

Re claim 11, Kutz teaches of varying a channel estimate (multipath environment) across each slot such that measurements of the impairment correlations taken across the slot reflect changing fading conditions as a result of the changing channel estimation (Page 3).

Re claims 26 and 37, Kutz teaches of using the modeled signal impairment correlations from the model to generate at least one of RAKE combining weights for RAKE combining (equation 7, Page 2) despread values (CDMA) of a received signal corresponding to the model.

Re claims 27, Kutz teaches of measuring the received signal impairment correlations comprises estimating the received signal impairment correlations at successive instants in time based on interpolated channel estimates and adjusting the

impairment correlations being modeled for spreading factor differences between received pilot signals and one or more received signals of interest (equation 8, Page 3, Col 2, Paragraph 1, Fig.1).

Re claim 30, Kutz teaches of adapting each of the model fitting parameters responsive to recurring measurements of the received signal impairment correlations comprises updating the impairment terms of the model at successive time instants (see claim 2) based on current channel estimates (see claim 10) and path delays (multipath delays) for a received signal of interest, and calculating updated model fitting parameters to fit the updated impairment terms to currently measured received signal impairments (see claim 10).

Re claims 31 and 42, Kutz teaches of the model including an interference impairment term comprising an interference covariance matrix that is updated at each time instant based on current channel estimates (see claim 10), current RAKE finger delay assignments, and current received signal path delays (Page 3, Col1).

Re claims 32 and 43, Kutz teaches of the model further including a noise impairment term comprising a noise covariance matrix that is updated over one or more time instants based on an autocorrelation function of a received signal filter pulse (Page

2, Lines 1 – 12) and on current RAKE finger delay assignments (Page 2, Col 2 to Page 3, Col 1).

Re claims 38 and 51, Kutz teaches of the receiver circuit further comprises a Signal-to-Interference Ratio (SIR) estimation circuit (Page 3, Col 1) configured to estimate a SIR for the received signal of interest based at least in part on the model of received signal impairment correlations (Page 3, B. Determining the G-RAKE Finger Delays).

Re claim 39, Kutz teaches of a wireless communication terminal for use in a wireless communication network (CDMA, Abstract) comprising: a radio front-end circuit (receiver, Page 1) configured to provide one or more received signals of interest (*combining the signals from all fingers*, Page 1, Introduction) corresponding to one or more antenna-received signals (cellular system); and a receiver circuit configured to generate one or more RAKE combined signals by RAKE processing the one or more received signals of interest (fingers); said receiver circuit configured to calculate RAKE combining weights (Page 2, *G-RAKE weights*) by: providing a model of received signal impairment for a received signal of interest comprising an interference impairment term scaled by a first fitting parameter and a noise impairment term scaled by a second fitting parameter (see claim 2); and measuring received signal impairment correlations at each of one or more successive time instants and, at each time instant, adapting values of

the first and second fitting parameters to fit the model to measured received signal impairment correlations (see claim 3).

Re claim 40, Kutz teaches of the receiver circuit configured to update the model at each time instant based on current channel estimates and path delays for a received signal of interest (see claim 10) such that instantaneous values of the first and second fitting parameters are calculated to fit current interference impairment and noise impairment terms to the measured received signal impairment correlations (see claim 4).

Re claim 47, Kutz teaches of the receiver circuit configured to provide a model for each of one or more transmitted signals of interest (see claim 39).

Re claim 56, Kutz teaches of a method of received signal processing comprising: receiving one or more signals of interest during each of a succession of time slots (see claim 3); generating channel estimates over each time slot (vector h); measuring impairment correlations for the one or more signals of interest; computing one or more model impairment terms; updating model fitting parameters by fitting the measured impairment correlations to an impairment correlation model using the one or more model impairment terms; and based on the updated model fitting parameters (see claim

Art Unit: 2611

1), generating in each time slot at least one of RAKE combining weights for combining despread values for the one or more signals of interest, and signal quality measurements for the one or more signals of interest (see claim 26).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 7, 25 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Heikkila (US 6,771,690).

Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of providing a combined model for each of two or more received signals of interest.

Heikkila teaches of a method to minimize the mean-square-error of an estimate of an unknown parameter, such as a data symbol transmitted through a channel, such as a WCDMA channel. The method includes steps of (a) replacing a required multiplication of an input signal vector by an inverse covariance matrix, which is one of a total signal covariance matrix or an interference-plus-noise covariance matrix, by linear filtering (#22, Fig.3), wherein directly computed or estimated filter elements of a row or a column of the inverse covariance matrix, corresponding to time instant i , are used as linear filter coefficients; (b) forming a vector $g(i)$ from the filter outputs, the vector $g(i)$ being estimated element by element using the linear filter; and (c) using the vector $g(i)$ in place of a vector that would have been obtained by directly multiplying the signal vector by the inverse covariance matrix. A summation junction (#26) is provided at the

outputs of the pulse shape filters (#24) to provide a combined model of received signal impairment correlations for the two signals of interest (Fig.3).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a multi antenna receiver for the benefit of increasing throughput, range and improved error rate performance.

Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Zhang (US 7,167,723).

Kutz teaches all the limitations above except of the use of cross antennas.

Zhang teaches of a dual channel redundant wireless network link formed by a Redundant Fixed Wireless Network Link device where two wireless networking radio channel are separated by cross polarization of antenna at same radio frequency (Fig.2), or different radio frequency characteristics.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used cross polarization antennas to minimize the cross interference between channels.

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Engstrom et al.(US Pub 2001/0036812).

Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 11 except of the varying a channel estimate across each slot comprising interpolating channel measurements across the slot such that a channel estimate value is a function of relative positioning within the slot.

Engstrom teaches of bit error rate estimates are used for measuring link quality in a radio telecommunications system (Abstract, Lines 1 – 2). The channel estimates are interpolated according to the position of the symbols in the slot. (Eq 11, Paragraph 0055)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to interpolate channel measurements across the slot such that a channel estimate value is a function of relative positioning within the slot to derive a link quality measurement (Abstract).

Claims 14, 15, 19, 41 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Smee et al (US Pub 2003/0031234).

Re claims 14 and 15, Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 10 except of estimating the noise power.

Smee teaches of a method and apparatus to compute the combiner coefficients for wireless communication systems for a space-time solution (Abstract, Lines 1 – 3). Smee teaches of summing selected diagonal elements of a measured impairment correlation matrix obtained by measuring the impairment correlations (Eq.19, Paragraph 0159, Lines 11 – 14) and subtracting components (Eq.20) from the summed diagonal elements to obtain an estimate of noise power comprises summing main diagonal elements corresponding to on-path RAKE fingers (Paragraph 0163) and subtracting a second value determined by summing main diagonal elements corresponding to off-path RAKE fingers (off-diagonal elements are zero, Paragraph 0175).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to estimate noise introduced to the transmitted signal by the channel (diagonal elements) to effectively decode the transmitted signal (Paragraph 0025).

Re claims 19 and 55, Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 10 and 39 as well as modeled interference and noise correlation matrices substantially match the measured impairment correlations (#108, Fig.7). However, Nielsen does not teach of performing a least squares fit of the model fitting parameters.

Smee teaches of calculating updated model fitting parameters based on the measured impairment correlations (Paragraph 0052) by performing a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis (Paragraph 0048).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis.

Re claim 41, Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 40 except of the use of LSE process.

Smee teaches of calculating updated model fitting parameters based on the measured impairment correlations (Paragraph 0052) by performing a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis (Paragraph 0048).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to perform a minimizing mean square error approach to allow weight combining on a per path basis.

Claims 20 – 22 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Love et al. (US Pub 2004/0253955).

Nielsen teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of maintaining different state values for one or more of the model fitting parameters, so that scaling of the corresponding impairment terms is state dependent.

Love teaches of a wireless communications device (#100, Fig.1) including a primary radio frequency branch (#134) and a diversity branch (#136), which is enabled (*active state*) (HSDPA, Paragraph 0018) and disabled (*inactive*) to balance performance and *power* consumption. Diversity mode operation of the device is controlled, for example, based on one or more of an estimated channel quality indicator (channel estimation), data reception (WCDMA, Paragraph 0018), data rate, state or mode of the station, estimated signal to noise ratio of a pilot signal (*control information from the base station*), battery power level, distance from a serving cell, among other factors (Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used a diversity branch with active and inactive states to reduce power consumption where changes in the channel estimation according to the pilot sent from the base station would result in different impairment terms.

Claims 28 – 29, 48 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kutz in view of Taylor et al. (US 7,092,452).

Re claim 28, Kutz teaches all the limitations of claim 1 except of a combining model corresponding to two or more transmit diversity signals received as signals of interest.

Taylor teaches of a digital receiver automatically detecting and non-coherently demodulating a multiplicity of interfering digitally modulated signals transmitted simultaneously at approximately the same carrier frequency. The receiver includes one or more antenna inputs (e.g., polarization and/or space diverse), a parameter estimator module, and a multiuser detector for estimating the data transmitted by each interfering signals and adapted to operate with at least one of a MUD algorithm with partially quantized prior information and a MUD algorithm based on prewhitened data (Abstract). The multiuser detector module is configured to operate with the low complexity linear MMSE algorithm and includes a combiner module coupled to the turbo MUD, and is adapted to combine recomputed bit estimates output by the turbo MUD with quantized bit values on a next iteration (Col 3, Lines 25 – 50).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have transmitted diversity signals to the receiver to provide a more accurate model and overcoming the effects of fading outages, and circuit failures.

Re claims 29, 48 and 50, Kutz and Taylor teach all the limitations of claim 28 and 47. Nielsen does not teach of solving for model fitting parameters associated with each signal of interest corresponding to each transmit antenna.

As discussed above in claim 28, Taylor teaches of diversity (CDMA) and the combiner module in the multiuser detector module. The Parameter Estimator (#20, Fig.1) generates outputs that occur once per snapshot and contain parameter estimates

for each frame of data in that snapshot. These parameter estimates include estimated signature waveforms (#30) for each diversity port (p), frame (m), and active user. The outputs also include an estimated noise power (#26), which is a scalar that represents the average power of the noise and a training sequence index (#28) which is a pointer to the location of the training sequence in each frame of the snapshot (#15).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have solved for model fitting parameters associated with each signal of interest for allowing multiple users to operate in the same communication channel that would accurately separate co-channel signals and reduce complex processing (Col 2, Lines 38 – 41).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed March 27, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants have submitted that Nielsen's process does not scale modeled impairment terms to fit to a measured impairment correlation, as recited in the claims.

As discussed above, Nielsen teaches of a process that is repeated for every new SNR of a decision variable in order to determine the optimum scaling factor r_0 (SNRz as a function of the scalar parameter) as shown in Fig.5 (Figs.4, 5 and 7, Paragraphs 0038, 0041 and 0043). The optimum scalar factor would then be used to scale the

covariance matrices of the two components according to the total noise covariance matrix equation (equation, Paragraph 0035). Therefore, Nielsen teaches of the model fitting parameters (r_0 , $1 - r_0$) responsive to a repeating or updating process (Fig.7) of the received signal impairment correlations. Therefore, Nielsen does teach of adapting model fitting parameters (r_0 , $1 - r_0$) used to scale model impairment terms (R_{IND} , R_{DEP}) to fit the model impairment terms to measured impairment correlations (R_u , according to the optimizer module).

Applicants submit that the pending claim language does not include or rely on recurring measurements of impairment correlations. Instead, the claims require adapting model fitting parameters based on measured received signal impairment correlations and one or more model impairment terms using a fitting process.

Examiner submits that Nielsen invention is an adaptive Generalized Matched filter where the repeated or updated process is to adapt the scaling parameters (r_0 , $1 - r_0$) based on measured received signal impairment correlations and one or more model impairment terms using a fitting process. The decision variable (z) is based on the measured received signal impairment correlations and one or more model impairment terms (Figs.2 and 4) where the SNR of the decision variable is used to adjust the scaling parameters and calculate modeled impairment correlations (#40, Fig.4) based on the adapted model fitting parameters (#46, Fig.4).

In the previous office action, the examiner also rejected independent claims 1, 35, 36, 39, and 56 anticipated under §102(b) by Kutz et al. Applicants did not respond to the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 13, 16 – 18, 24, 52 – 54, and 58 – 59 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

Art Unit: 2611

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aristocratis Fotakis whose telephone number is (571) 270-1206. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6:30 - 4.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chieh M. Fan can be reached on (571) 272-3042. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aristocratis Fotakis/

Examiner, Art Unit 2611

/CHIEH M FAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2611